SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
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WHAT MONSTROUS FORCE, MORE POWERFUL THAN THE MAN OF STEEL HIMSELF, LURKS ON...
"EARTH'S SISTER PLANET!"

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EDITOR'S NOTE: THE EVENTS DEPICTED IN THIS ISSUE'S STORIES OCCURRED PRIOR TO THE DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS NOW APPEARING IN CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS.
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
YOU PUNY MAMMALS WILL NEVER EVOLVE INTO AS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND POWERFULLY BUILT BEINGS AS WE REPTILES!
S-4718
THE SETTING: A DISTANT PLANET ORBITING THE SUN.
THE MISSION: TO SAVE ALL OF EARTH'S LIVING CREATURES FROM TOTAL DESTRUCTION.
THE MENACE: A CREATURE THAT HAS BEEN EVOLVING FOR MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED MILLION YEARS ON...
"EARTH'S SISTER PLANET!"

WRITER: WILLIAM WOOLFOLK
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EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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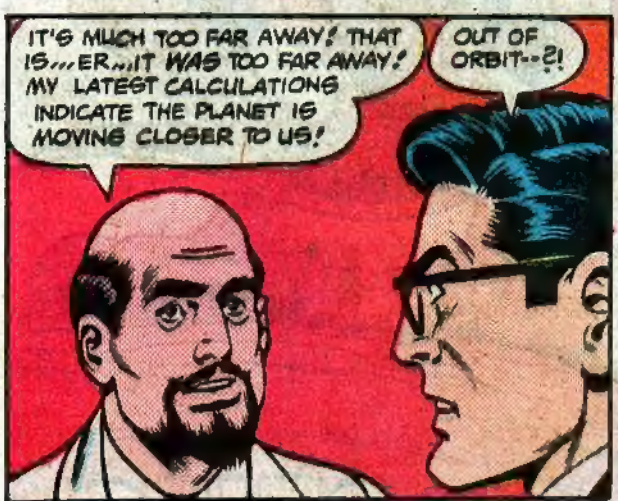
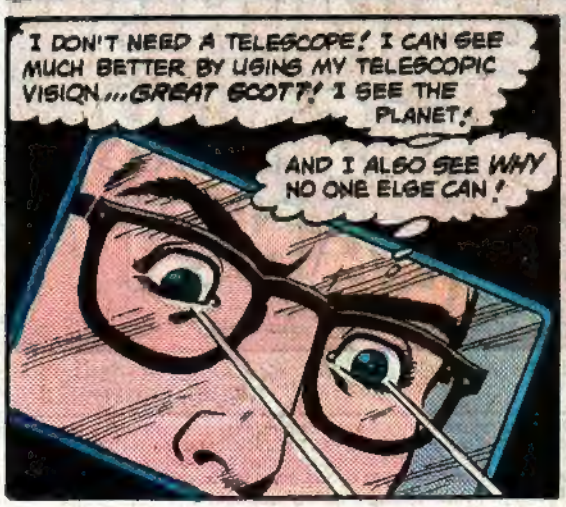
SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE FARTHEST REACHES OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM...
AT LONG LAST! WE ARE RETURNING HOME!

THANKS TO YOUR PROPULSIVE DEVICE, PARENT! IT GENERATED THE NECESSARY FORCE TO MOVE US OUT OF ORBIT!
WHEN WE INTERSECT WITH THE THIRD PLANET FROM THE SUN, THE NAME OF KLYSTRO WILL BE ENSHRINED WITH THE GREATEST LEADERS OF OUR RACE!

MEANWHILE, ON THE SUN'S THIRD PLANET, CLARK KENT IS INTERVIEWING ASTRONOMER MARK NAYIM...
...AND EVEN THOUGH WE CANNOT SEE IT, THERE IS ANOTHER PLANET IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM! ITS GRAVITATIONAL EFFECTS ON PLUTO AND NEPTUNE PROVE IT IS THERE!
WHY CAN'T WE SEE IT?


IT'S MUCH TOO FAR AWAY! THAT IS...ER...IT WAS TOO FAR AWAY! MY LATEST CALCULATIONS INDICATE THE PLANET IS MOVING CLOSER TO US!
OUT OF ORBIT--?!

I MUST SAY IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THERE'S AN INVISIBLE PLANET IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM THAT'S CHANGING POSITION!
I'VE PINPOINTED ITS EXACT POSITION AND DIRECTED MY TELESCOPE AT IT!
SEE--OH, MY--WHAT A POOR CHOICE OF WORDS--FOR YOURSELF!


I DON'T NEED A TELESCOPE! I CAN SEE MUCH BETTER BY USING MY TELESCOPIC VISION...GREAT SCOTT! I SEE THE PLANET!
AND I ALSO SEE WHY NO ONE ELSE CAN!

THIS HAS BEEN VERY INTERESTING! HAVE TO LEAVE NOW TO WRITE THIS UP IN TIME FOR TOMORROW'S DAILY PLANET!
I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO READING IT!

MOMENTS LATER, OUTSIDE...
HAYIM'S RIGHT! PLANET X IS MOVING IN OUR DIRECTION! IT'S PASSED JUPITER AND IS HEADING FOR THE ASTEROID BELT!
AND WHEN IT PASSES MARS-- EARTH WILL BE NEXT!
WITHIN SEVEN MINUTES, TRAVELING AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE MAN OF ACTION ROCKETS PAST MARS AND INTO THE ASTEROID BELT...
NOW I KNOW WHY THE PLANET CAN'T BE SEEN!
IT'S COVERED BY A METAL DOME THAT DOESN'T REFLECT LIGHT!
MEANWHILE, IN KLYSTRO'S HEAT SALON...
AHHHH! THIS REALLY WARMS THE BLOOD!
TERRIBLE NEWS, PARENT! THE SOLARMASTER REPORTS THAT...
...THE THIRD PLANET FROM THE SUN IS INHABITED-- BY HIGHLY INTELLIGENT LIFE-FORMS!
THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE, OFFSPRING! THERE IS NO CIVILIZED LIFE BUT OURS IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM!
ALL DINOSAURS ON THE THIRD PLANET WERE WIPED OUT BY THE SAME SOLAR CATACLYSM THAT DROVE OUR PLANET AWAY FROM THE SUN!
THESE ARE NOT DINOSAURS--
THEN WHAT ARE THEY?

MAMMALS! BILLIONS OF THEM!
NONSENSE! MAMMALS COULD NEVER EVOLVE SO HIGHLY!
BUT WHY RISK A BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY? WE WILL SIMPLY OBLITERATE THEM!
Y-YOU MUST NOT DO THAT, PARENT! WE ARE MUCH TOO CIVILIZED!
OFFSPRING, WHEN YOU SUCCEED ME AS LEADER, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THE HARSH CHOICES A LEADER MUST MAKE!
NEVERTHELESS, I AM DETERMINED TO STOP THIS MASS MURDER!
SOON AFTERWARD...
I BRING AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE OFFSPRING OF KLYSTRO!
HE SAYS THAT OUR LEADER WILL EXTINGUISH THE DOMINANT SPECIES ON THE THIRD PLANET TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR OUR ARRIVAL.
AN ACT OF INFAMY!
TO PREVENT THE SLAUGHTER, WE MUST DESTROY KLYSTRO'S ULTIMATE WEAPON!
4
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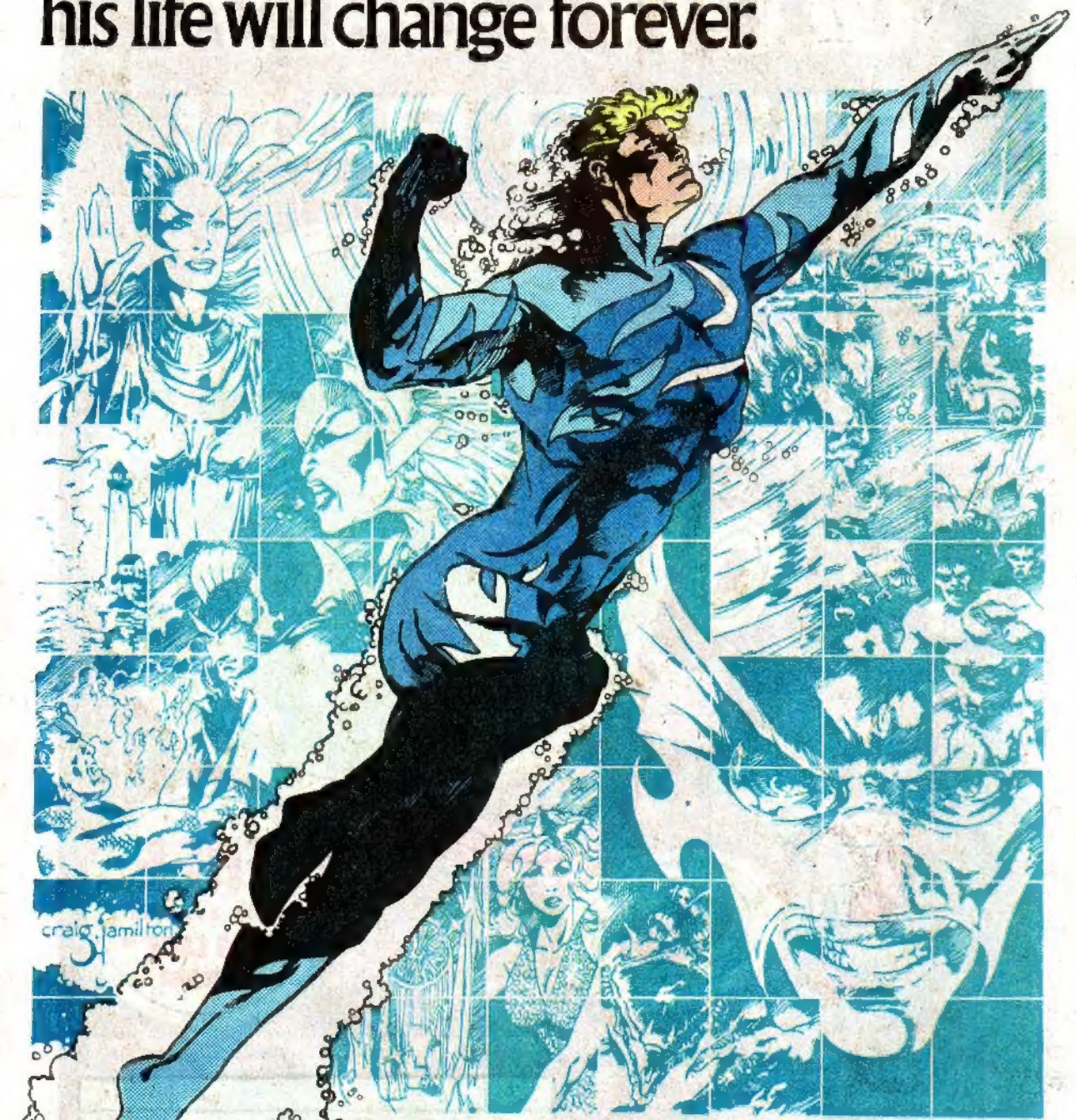

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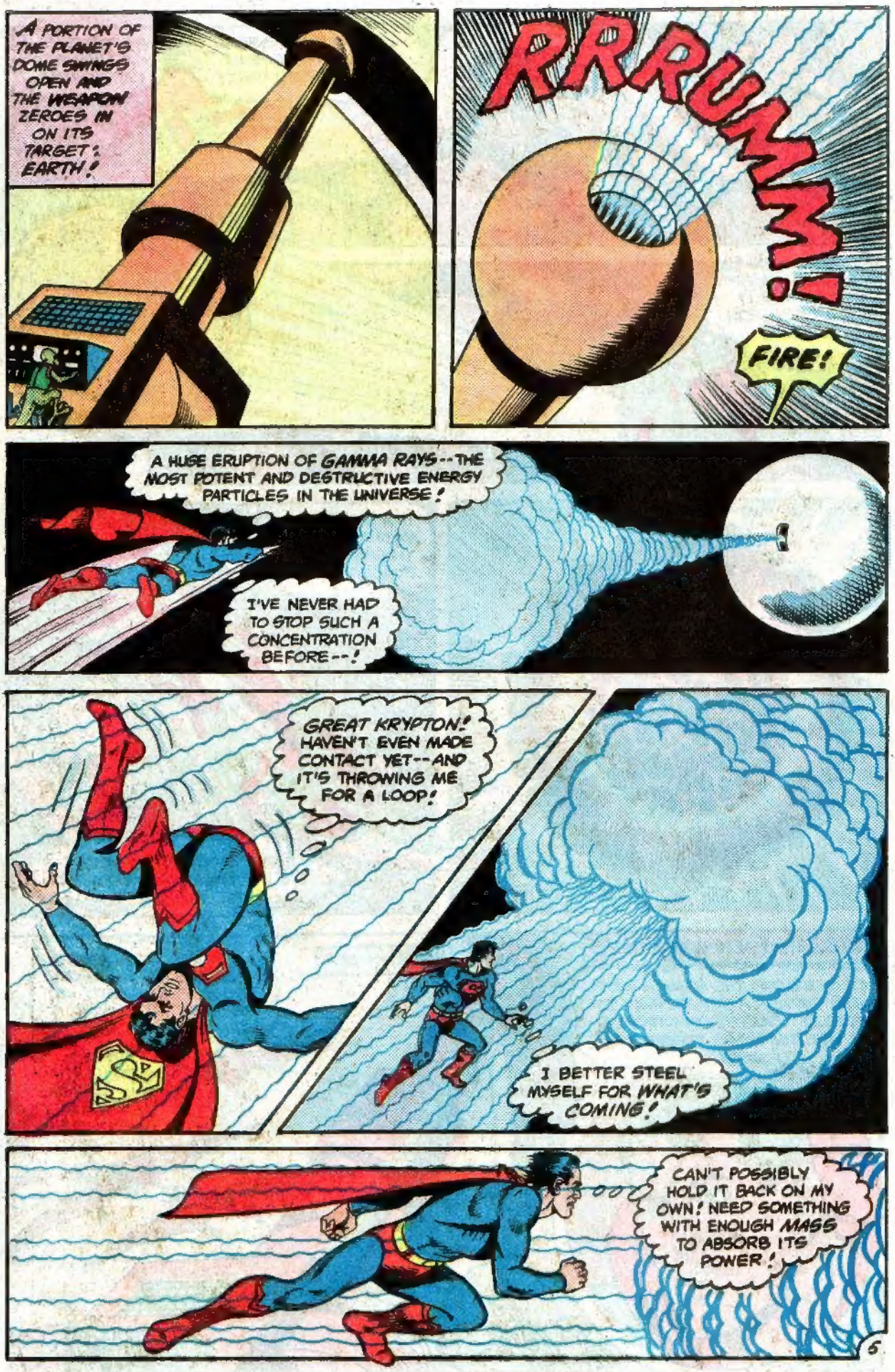
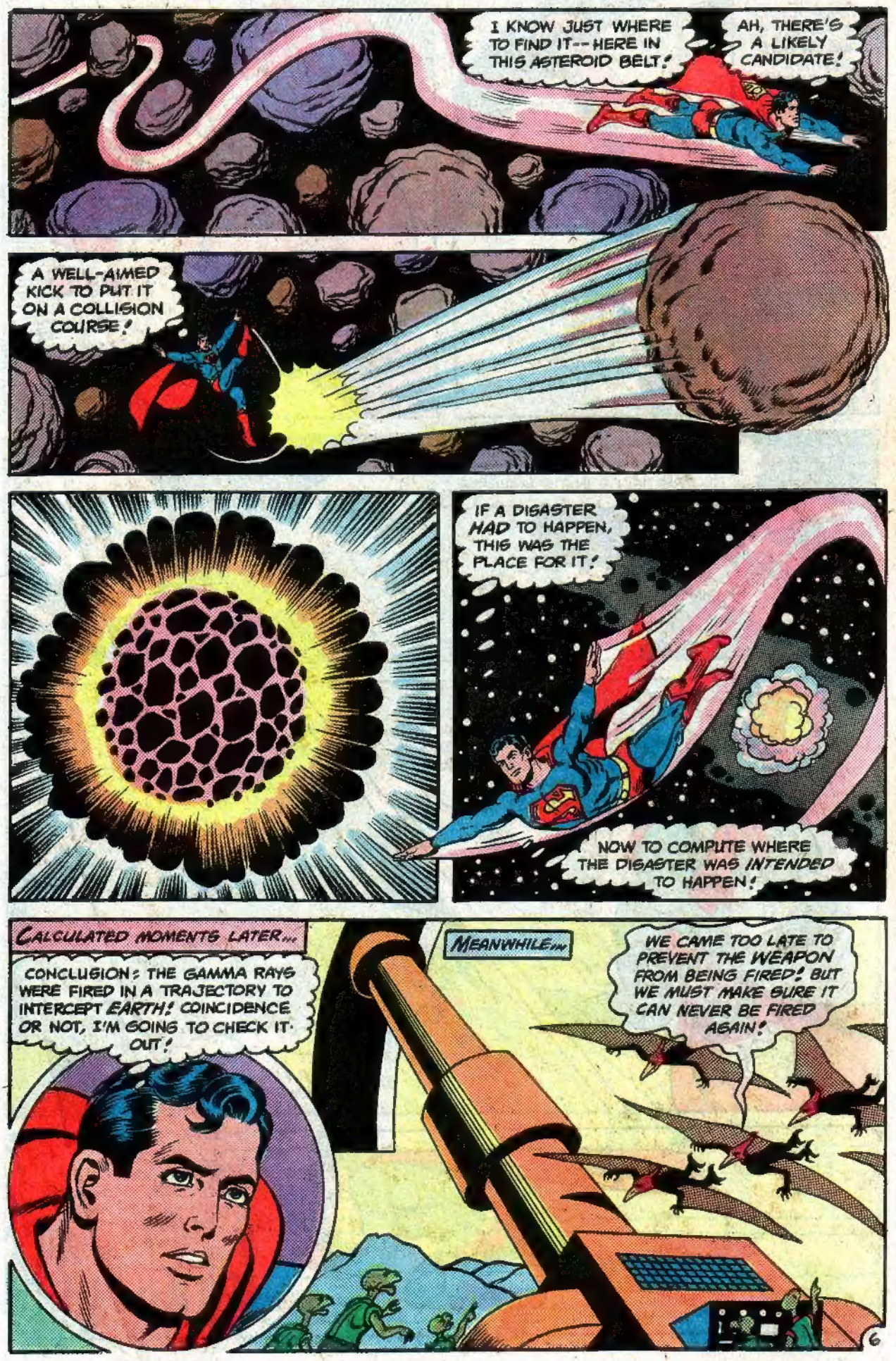
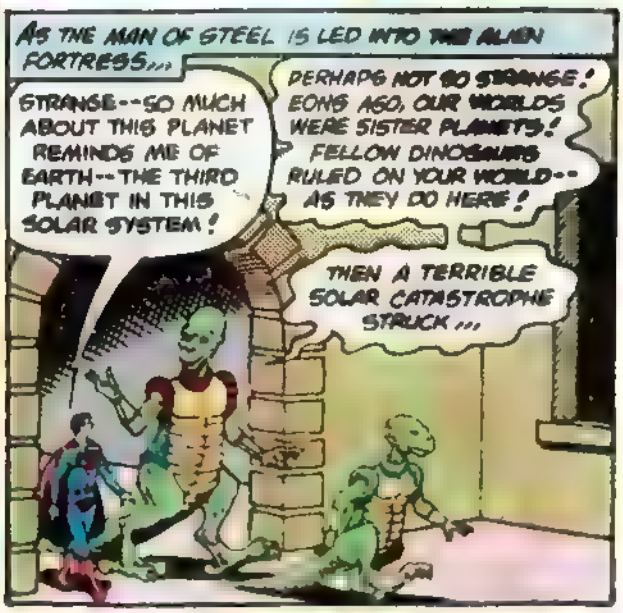

A PORTION OF THE PLANET'S DOME SWINGS OPEN AND THE WEAPON ZEROES IN ON ITS TARGET: EARTH!
RRRUMM!
FIRE!
A HUGE ERUPTION OF GAMMA RAYS--THE MOST POTENT AND DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY PARTICLES IN THE UNIVERSE!
I'VE NEVER HAD TO STOP SUCH A CONCENTRATION BEFORE--!
GREAT KRYPTON! HAVEN'T EVEN MADE CONTACT YET--AND IT'S THROWING ME FOR A LOOP!
I BETTER STEEL MYSELF FOR WHAT'S COMING!
CAN'T POSSIBLY HOLD IT BACK ON MY OWN! NEED SOMETHING WITH ENOUGH MASS TO ABSORB ITS POWER!

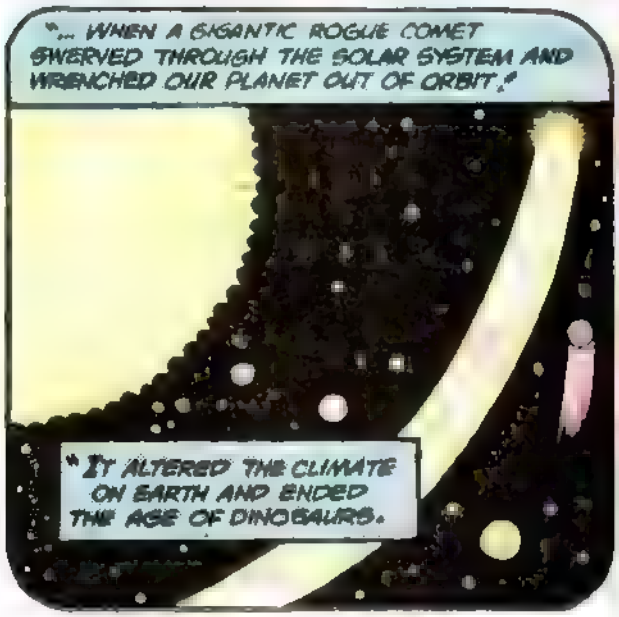

I KNOW JUST WHERE TO FIND IT--HERE IN THIS ASTEROID BELT!
AH, THERE'S A LIKELY CANDIDATE!
A WELL-AIMED KICK TO PUT IT ON A COLLISION COURSE!
IF A DISASTER HAD TO HAPPEN, THIS WAS THE PLACE FOR IT!
NOW TO COMPUTE WHERE THE DISASTER WAS INTENDED TO HAPPEN!
CALCULATED MOMENTS LATER...
CONCLUSION: THE GAMMA RAYS WERE FIRED IN A TRAJECTORY TO INTERCEPT EARTH! COINCIDENCE OR NOT, I'M GOING TO CHECK IT OUT!
MEANWHILE...
WE CAME TOO LATE TO PREVENT THE WEAPON FROM BEING FIRED! BUT WE MUST MAKE SURE IT CAN NEVER BE FIRED AGAIN!

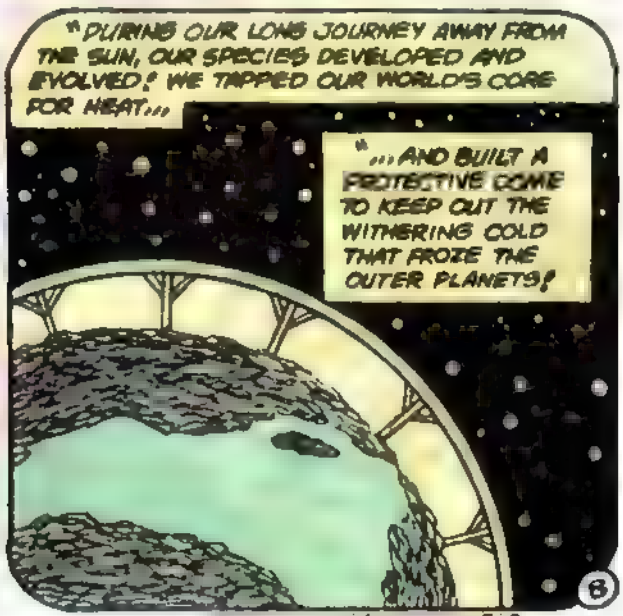
THERE--THE LAST DEFENDER IS OVERCOME!
DESTROY THE WEAPON!
THOSE MUST BE THE CREATURES THAT FIRED THE DEVASTATING BOLT AT EARTH!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO FIRE ANOTHER...
WHO IS THAT--? CANNOT LET HIM INTERFERE!
SORRY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING--
SNAP!
--AND I DON'T LIKE YOUR HOSTILE ATTITUDE!
BLAST!
--SO LET'S PART COMPANY!
7

A TWIST HERE...AND A TURN THERE...AND THIS WEAPON BECOMES A HARMLESS PIECE OF JUNK!
I MUST FIND OUT WHAT MANNER OF SUPERIOR CREATURE THIS IS!

DO YOU SPEAK INTERLAC*?
YES--I AM SUPERMAN OF PLANET EARTH!
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
I AM KLYSTRO--LEADER OF THIS PLANET--AND THIS IS MY OFFSPRING!
COME WITH US--AND WE WILL EXPLAIN!
*A language spoken throughout the Galaxy--Julie


AS THE MAN OF STEEL IS LED INTO THE ALIEN FORTRESS...
STRANGE--SO MUCH ABOUT THIS PLANET REMINDS ME OF EARTH--THE THIRD PLANET IN THIS SOLAR SYSTEM!
PERHAPS NOT SO STRANGE! EONS AGO, OUR WORLDS WERE SISTER PLANETS! FELLOW DINOSAURS RULED ON YOUR WORLD--AS THEY DO HERE!
THEN A TERRIBLE SOLAR CATASTROPHE STRUCK...


"...WHEN A GIGANTIC ROGUE COMET SWERVED THROUGH THE SOLAR SYSTEM AND WRENCHED OUR PLANET OUT OF ORBIT."
"IT ALTERED THE CLIMATE ON EARTH AND ENDED THE AGE OF DINOSAURS.


"DURING OUR LONG JOURNEY AWAY FROM THE SUN, OUR SPECIES DEVELOPED AND EVOLVED! WE TAPPED OUR WORLD'S CORE FOR HEAT...
"...AND BUILT A PROTECTIVE DOME TO KEEP OUT THE WITHERING COLD THAT FROZE THE OUTER PLANETS!
8

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"WHEN THE HEAT FROM OUR PLANET'S CORE BEGAN TO DECLINE, I FOUND A WAY TO MOVE US BACK TOWARD THE SUN. OUR PLANET BECAME IN EFFECT A GIGANTIC SPACESHIP!"
OUR DESTINATION IS OUR ORIGINAL ORBIT AROUND THE SUN! DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION--?
ALL EXCEPT WHY YOU FIRED THAT WEAPON AT EARTH!
AND I WILL ANSWER THAT! YOU AREN'T JUST MOVING BACK! YOU'RE MOVING IN!
YOU INTEND TO LEAVE YOUR DYING PLANET AND TAKE OVER OURS!
CORRECT! AND FOR YOUR BRILLIANT DEDUCTION, YOUR REWARD IS --
--DEATH!
ZZZT!
A CONCENTRATED POWER BEAM! DRIVING ME DOWN!
YOU KILLED HIM!
I LURED HIM INTO POSITION FOR AN EXECUTION! AND THEN CARRIED IT OUT!
YOU MEAN YOU TRIED TO, KLYSTRO!
INCREDIBLE! NO LIVING BEING COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT!
9

THONK!
NOW LET'S TRY MY WEAPON ON YOU!
HE'S STILL CONSCIOUS?! HIS ARMOR MUST BE PRACTICALLY IMPREGNABLE!
THE IMMOBILIZER! THE VERY THING I NEED!
IT WILL INCREASE THE POWER OF GRAVITY ON YOUR BODY MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND TIMES!
THE HEAVY GRAVITY IS CRIPPLING ME! CAN HARDLY MOVE!
GETTING WORSE EVERY SECOND!
RELEASE HIM, SIRE! YOU BUT MAKE THINGS WORSE!
I GIVE THE ORDERS HERE, OFFSPRING--REMEMBER THAT!
GUARDS! TAKE HIM AWAY!
AND SUMMON THE HYVULTS! IT'S THEIR FEEDING TIME!

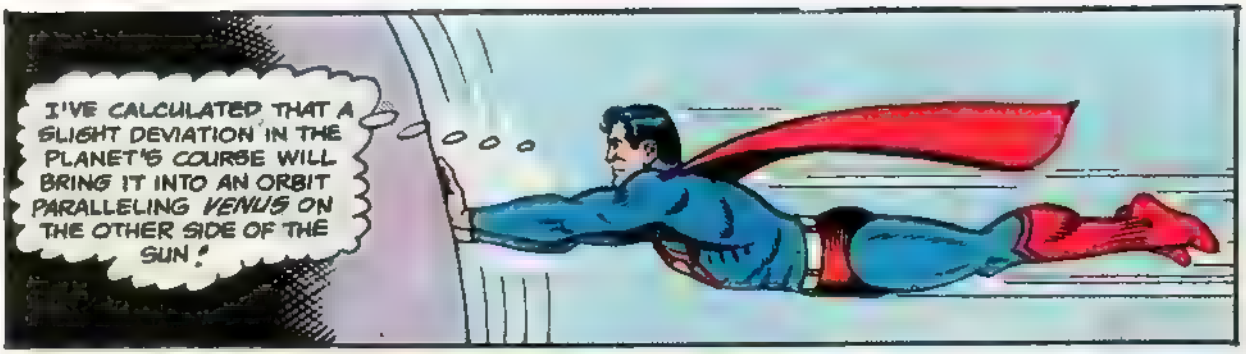
SOLARMASTER! HAVE YOU CONFIRMED THE DESTRUCTION OF LIFE ON PLANET THREE?
ALAS, KLYGTRO! THE WEAPON'S ENERGY-BOLT DID NOT REACH ITS TARGET!
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR! NO EARTHLINGS PERISHED!
EXPLAIN WHY NOT!
A WANDERING ASTEROID INTERCEPTED IT--A TOTALLY UNPREDICTABLE HAPPENING!
MY WEAPON HAS BEEN DESTROYED! BUT MY SPACECRAFT IS EQUIPPED WITH A SMALLER VERSION THAT WILL BE AS EFFECTIVE AT CLOSE RANGE!
PLEASE, PARENT-- WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO KILL CREATURES THAT HAVE DONE US NO HARM!
WE MUST FIND A WAY TO STOP HIM!
STOP HIM? BETRAY HIM WOULD BE A BETTER WORD!
A DUNGEON BENEATH THE FORTRESS...
CAN'T MOVE AT ALL NOW! I FEEL LIKE I WEIGH A MILLION TONS!
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
CREAK!
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THESE UGLIES!

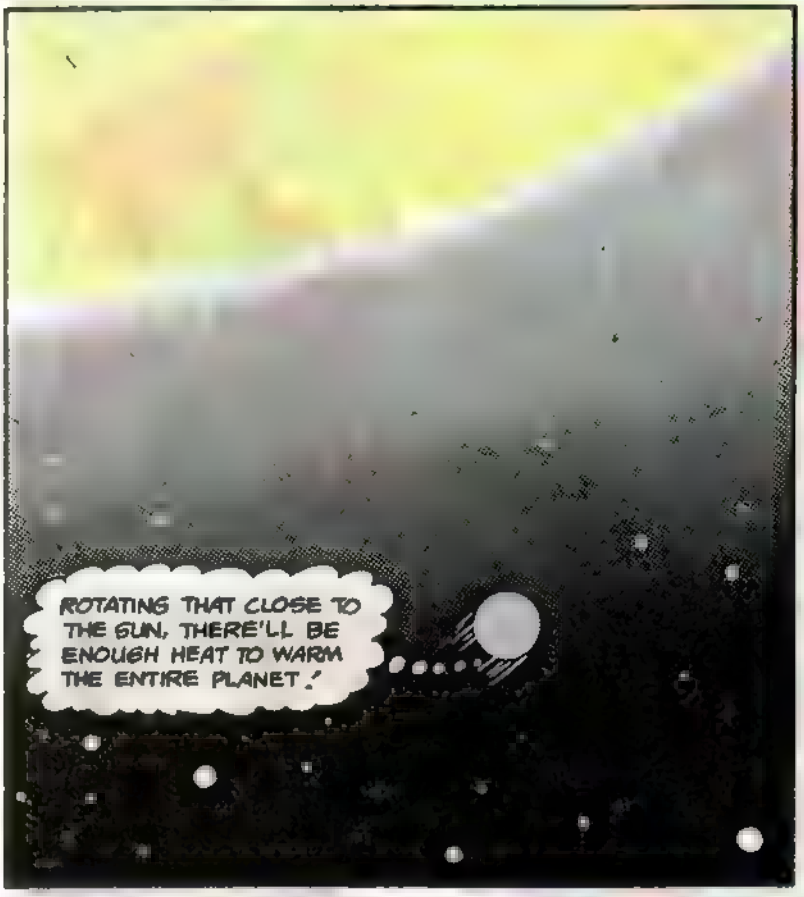
SNK KLLK!
KLLK SNK!
TURNING ME--GREAT! THOUGH I CAN'T MOVE UP OR DOWN AGAINST HEAVY GRAVITY, THESE UGLIES JUST SUPPLIED THE PUSH I NEED TO START REVOLVING HORIZONTALLY! AND THAT MEANS...
...I CAN TURN MYSELF INTO A HUMAN CENTRI-FUGE TO COUNTER THE EFFECT OF HEAVY GRAVITY!
ARKKK!
KRAK! WHAM!
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!
NOW FOR SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS!
AT THAT MOMENT...
I HAVE COME IN ANSWER TO YOUR SUMMONS, OFFSPRING OF KLYSTRO!
TOO LATE, I'M AFRAID!
KLYSTRO'S SPACECRAFT HAS ALREADY DEPARTED!
FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

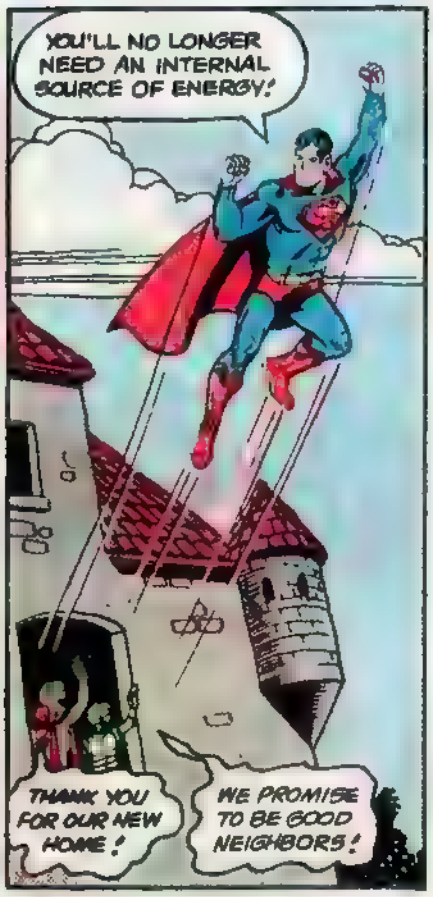
TO DESTROY ALL LIFE ON THE THIRD PLANET!
THAT MAKES IT--AS THEY SAY ON EARTH--A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!
NOW THAT THE GRAVITY-EFFECT IS GONE, I CAN FLY--AT TOP SPEED! THERE'S KLYSTRO'S SPACESHIP--DEAD AHEAD!
THE THIRD PLANET IS IN RANGE! IN JUST A MOMENT...
...YOU WON'T GET THAT MOMENT!
A VOICE?! I AM ALONE--SO WHO--?
I'LL GIVE YOU ONE GUESS--!
SUPERMAN!
RIGHT! THAT SUPER-VENTRILOQUISTIC TRICK GAVE ME THE EXTRA MOMENT I NEEDED TO STOP YOU FROM FIRING YOUR WEAPON!
CRASH!
I'M OFFERING YOU A DEAL! CALL OFF YOUR MASS MURDER, AND I'LL HELP YOUR PEOPLE SETTLE THERE!
REJECTED!
ONLY ONE SPECIES CAN RULE ON ANY PLANET! WOULD YOU AND YOUR KIND BE WILLING TO SURRENDER--BE SUBSERVIENT TO US?
NEVER!
13

I THOUGHT SO!
WHONK!
KAPOW!
YAA-HA!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
YOU KNOCKED MY ARM AGAINST THE WEAPON'S FIRING LEVER! IT'S ABOUT TO GO OFF!
THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO NOW!
NO! DO NOT BLOCK THE WEAPON! IT WILL IMPL...
IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE, NOT A SOUND IS HEARD--BUT THE EYE-SHATTERING IMPLOSION SEEMS ALL THE MORE VIOLENT IN THE EERIE SILENCE!

IT'S OVER! NOW I HAVE TO BREAK THE NEWS ABOUT KLYSTRO TO HIS FELLOW BEINGS!
WHEW! NOTHING LEFT BUT A LITTLE SCATTERED DEBRIS-- AND ME!
MY PARENT WAS BRAVE AND COMPLETELY DEDICATED TO PROTECTING OUR SPECIES!
BUT HE WAS ALSO CRUEL-- AND THAT LED TO HIS DEATH!
OUR RACE WILL PERISH! BUT AT LEAST WE WILL NOT BE GUILTY OF MASS SLAUGHTER!
THERE MUST BE A WAY TO SAVE THESE TRAGIC BEINGS!
I KNOW MY PARENT WAS WRONG! BUT I LOVED HIM-- AND ALWAYS WILL!
15


I'VE CALCULATED THAT A SLIGHT DEVIATION IN THE PLANET'S COURSE WILL BRING IT INTO AN ORBIT PARALLELING *VENUS* ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SUN!


ROTATING THAT CLOSE TO THE SUN, THERE'LL BE ENOUGH HEAT TO WARM THE ENTIRE PLANET!


YOU'LL NO LONGER NEED AN INTERNAL SOURCE OF ENERGY!
THANK YOU FOR OUR NEW HOME!
WE PROMISE TO BE GOOD NEIGHBORS!

A SHORT TIME LATER, AT THE DAILY PLANET...
DAILY ø PLANET
SUPERMAN SAVES US--AGAIN!
WELL, OUR CAPED FRIEND HAS DONE IT AGAIN--AS HE *ALWAYS* DOES!

JUST ONE *MORE* TIME HE'S SAVED OUR WORLD!
MORE THAN THAT, LOIS! THIS TIME SUPERMAN SAVED *TWO* WORLDS!
16
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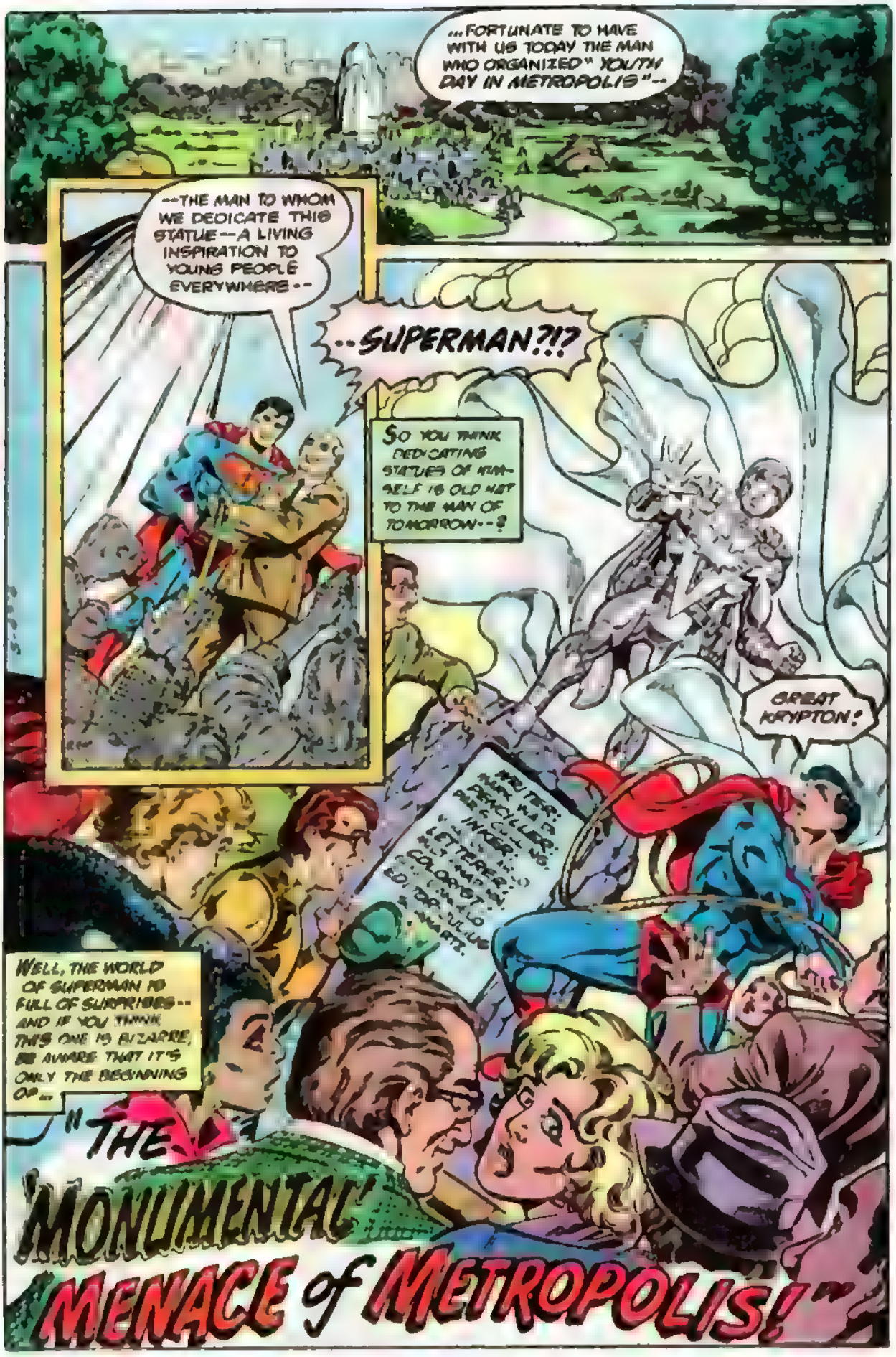
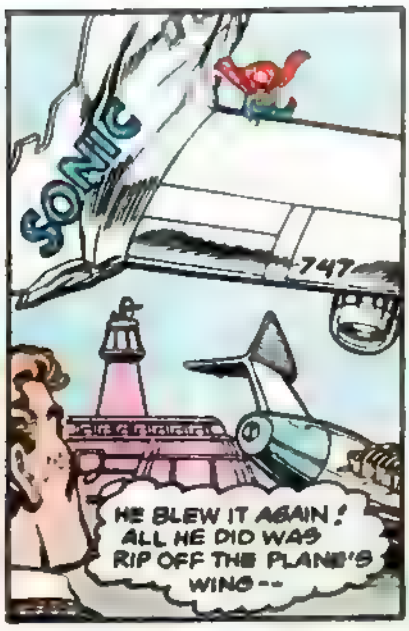
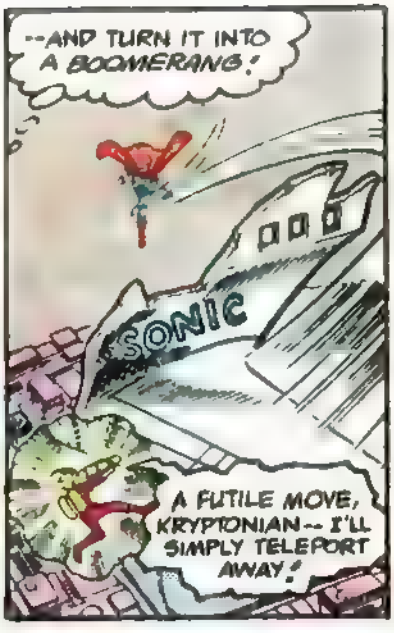

...FORTUNATE TO HAVE WITH US TODAY THE MAN WHO ORGANIZED "YOUTH DAY IN METROPOLIS"--
--THE MAN TO WHOM WE DEDICATE THIS STATUE--A LIVING INSPIRATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYWHERE--
--SUPERMAN?!?
SO YOU THINK DEDICATING STATUES OF HIMSELF IS OLD HAT TO THE MAN OF TOMORROW--?
GREAT KRYPTON!
WELL, THE WORLD OF SUPERMAN IS FULL OF SURPRISES--AND IF YOU THINK THIS ONE IS BIZARRE, BE AWARE THAT IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING OF...
"THE MONUMENTAL MENACE of METROPOLIS!"

THINK HE WILL GET THE MESSAGE, BARA?
IT SEEMS AS IF WE HAVE ALREADY LEFT HIM DUMBSTRUCK, PARYKHA!
?
WHAT'S WITH THE STATUE, SUPERMAN--?
SUPERMAN! SUPERMAN? SNAP OUT OF IT!
MAN OF KRYPTON!
WE OF THE PLANET KORAN HAVE COME TO EARTH TO AVENGE OUR HUMILIATION AT YOUR HANDS FOUR SUN-CYCLES AGO!
AS YOU DESTROYED OUR WAR-MACHINES, SO SHALL WE DESTROY YOUR METROPOLIS!
STOP US--IF YOU DARE!
GO GET 'EM, SUPERMAN!
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HIMSELF! WONDER WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP?
WATCH!
HE HEAT-VISIONED THAT "WATCH" WORD INTO THE TREE!
HE WANTS ME TO KEEP TABS ON HIM AND THOSE ALIENS! OKAY--WILL DO!
CABBY--I'M OLSEN OF THE PLANET--ON A HOT ASSIGNMENT!
FOLLOW THAT SUPER-HERO!
WOW! HERE'S MY CHANCE TO GET SUPERMAN'S AUTOGRAPH!

LOOKS LIKE THE ACTION'S STARTING HERE--AT THE AIRPORT!
SUPES ONCE TOLD ME WHAT HE DID TO DEFEAT THOSE YORANS--BUT I CAN'T RECALL IT!
THE ATTACK'S BEGUN!
IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE FOR SUPERMAN TO HANDLE IT!
THE CHIEF'LL LOVE THIS SCOOP! A FRONT-PAGE SHOT OF SUPERMAN CATCHING THE HANGAR AND--
WHA--?! HE SMASHED IT TO SMITHEREENS?!
THAT'S NO WAY TO SAVE A BUILDING!
HOPE MY PAL DOES BETTER HANDLING THAT PLANE ATTACK! LUCKILY, THERE'S NO ONE ABOARD IT!
WOOAT!

RRRRRIP!


SONIC
747
HE BLEW IT AGAIN! ALL HE DID WAS RIP OFF THE PLANE'S WING--


--AND TURN IT INTO A BOOMERANG!
SONIC
A FUTILE MOVE, KRYPTONIAN-- I'LL SIMPLY TELEPORT AWAY!

CAREFUL, SUPERMAN! YOU ALMOST GOT ME INSTEAD!
SONIC
CRASH!

THIS IS WILD! MY PAL'S BEEN FUMBLING EVER SINCE HE SAW THAT STATUE!
BUT HE TOLD ME TO WATCH, SO--

LET'S GO, CABBY! GLAD YOU HUNG AROUND!
I JUST GOTTA GET SUPERMAN'S AUTOGRAPH!

SHORTLY, THE GALAXY BUILDING...
WATCH YOUR STEP
THERE'S THAT OTHER AVENGING ALIEN-- SETTING THE PLANET GLOBE AFLAME!
LET'S SEE HOW SUPES HANDLES THIS DOOM!

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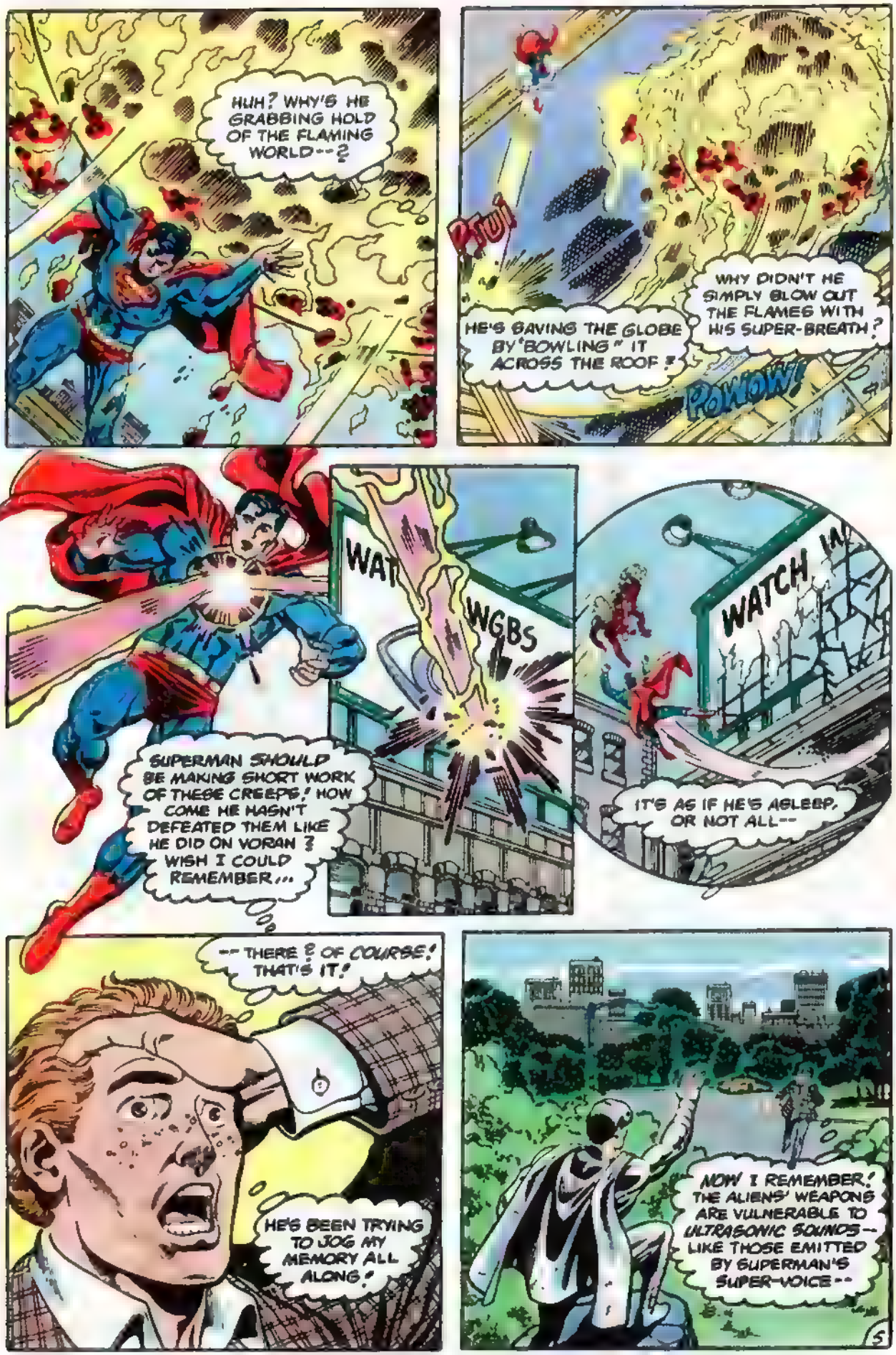

HUH? WHY'S HE GRABBING HOLD OF THE FLAMING WORLD--?
PIU!
HE'S SAVING THE GLOBE BY "BOWLING" IT ACROSS THE ROOF!
WHY DIDN'T HE SIMPLY BLOW OUT THE FLAMES WITH HIS SUPER-BREATH?
POWOW!
WAT
WGBS
WATCH IA
SUPERMAN SHOULD BE MAKING SHORT WORK OF THESE CREEPS! HOW COME HE HASN'T DEFEATED THEM LIKE HE DID ON VORAN? WISH I COULD REMEMBER...
IT'S AS IF HE'S ASLEEP, OR NOT ALL--
-- THERE? OF COURSE! THAT'S IT!
HE'S BEEN TRYING TO JOG MY MEMORY ALL ALONG!
NOW I REMEMBER! THE ALIENS' WEAPONS ARE VULNERABLE TO ULTRASONIC SOUNDS -- LIKE THOSE EMITTED BY SUPERMAN'S SUPER-VOICE --
5

--OR BY MY SIGNAL-WATCH!
ZEE!
ZEE!
ZEE!
ZEE!
GASP! THANKS, JIM! I KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH FOR ME!
ZEE!
ZEE!
I JUST WISH I'D CAUGHT YOUR MESSAGE EARLIER... SUPERMAN--?
RIGHT! MENTALLY TRAPPED IN THIS ALIEN BODY, I HAD TO STRAIN TO GIVE YOU THOSE "WORD" CLUES!
COME ON, "SUPERMAN"-- THE TWO OF US TOGETHER WILL DEFEAT THE VORANS!
WITH THE HELP OF JIMMY'S SIGNAL-WATCH!
YOU GOT IT, PAL!
USE YOUR HEAT VISION ON THE BAND-- I'LL PROTECT THE WATCH WITH A FORCE-BUBBLE!
THAT WAY I CAN STRETCH THE BAND INTO A LASSO--
--TO HOLD OUR FOES TIGHT--

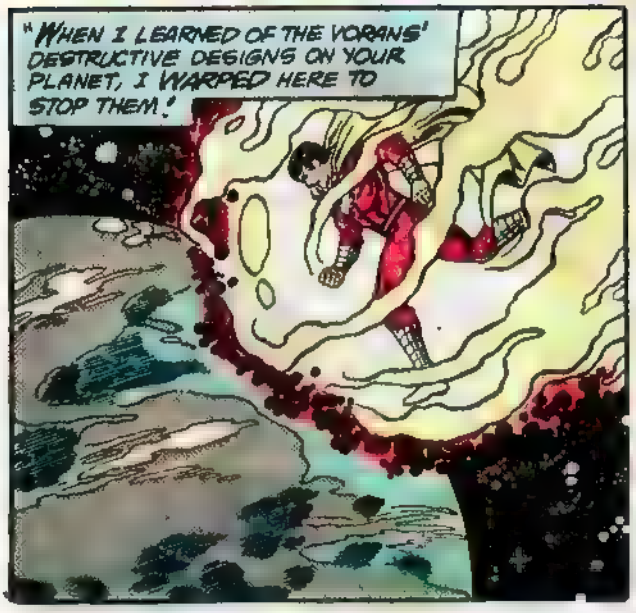
--AS ULTRASONIC VIBRATIONS CONDUCTED THROUGH THE LASSO DESTROY THEIR WEAPONS!

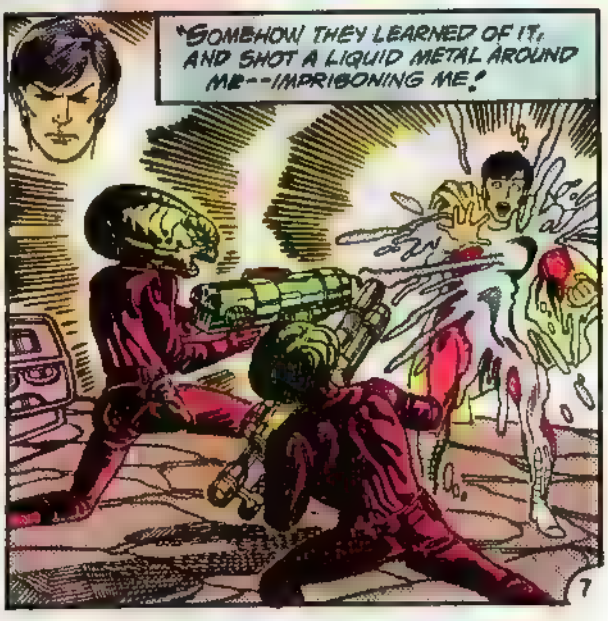
SHORTLY, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF METROPOLIS...
I...ER...GUESS I HAVE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO!
YES, BUT FIRST--

--WITH THE HELP OF YOUR "MENTAL MAGIC"--

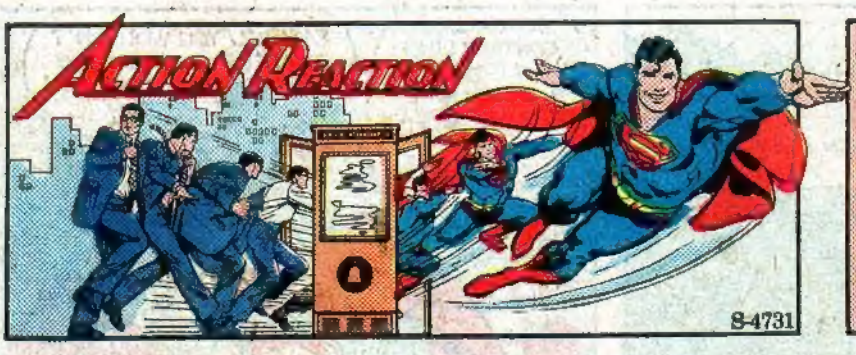
--I'M BACK IN MY OWN BODY AGAIN!
IT WAS AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE BEING ABLE TO CLAIRVOYANTLY "SEE" MYSELF IN ACTION!
I OWE YOU AN EXPLANATION, SUPERMAN!

MY NAME IS VAALOR. I AM A SUPER-HERO JUST STARTING OUT ON MY WORLD.


"WHEN I LEARNED OF THE VORANS' DESTRUCTIVE DESIGNS ON YOUR PLANET, I WARPED HERE TO STOP THEM!


"SOMEHOW THEY LEARNED OF IT, AND SHOT A LIQUID METAL AROUND ME--IMPRISONING ME!

"THOUGH HELPLESS TO STOP THEM, I MANAGED--
"--BY A DESPERATE EFFORT OF WILL--TO SWITCH MINDS WITH YOU!"
MENTALLY CONTROLLING YOUR BODY, I TRIED TO STOP THE VORANS--BUT I WENT ABOUT IT THE WRONG WAY.
VAALOR, YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE SOME OF THE MISTAKES I MADE WHEN I STARTED OUT!
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I ALSO HAVE SOME THINGS TO FIX--
--INCLUDING SOMEONE'S SELF-CONFIDENCE!
AND WHEN VAALOR TAKES ONE LAST LOOK AT EARTH BEFORE HE WARPS AWAY...
I WAS SUCH A FAILURE, I COULD NEVER SHOW MYSELF THERE AGAIN--
HUH? WHAT'S THIS I SEE--?
SUPERMAN'S RESTORING MY STATUE--MAKING ME OUT A HERO!
ER,,, SUPERMAN, YOUR FRIEND, JIMMY OLSEN, SAID YOU WOULD GIVE ME YOUR AUTOGRAPH!
PLEASE, SUPERMAN--DO IT! I COULDN'T HAVE COVERED THIS STORY WITHOUT HIM!
The End



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Dear Julie and Bob,

The first and cover-featured story in ACTION #572 was an extremely silly concept from beginning to end. I usually enjoy these little frolics, but "The World of Superman Masqueraders" left me cold. Perhaps if Craig Boldman had been able to expand on the premise, a good yarn could have come of it. This might have worked as a 12- or 14-page story, but as it is, I don't want to see Gollo again in a hurry. Despite my displeasure with the script, I must give my wholehearted approval of Wayne Boring's artwork. He has a delightful style (though Dave Hunt isn't my choice as his ideal inker), which entertained me in my younger days and does still.

"SOS from Nowhere" scored a hit with both story and art. I've not seen many tales by longtime fan Beppe Sabatini, but on the strength of this flight-of-fancy, I'd like to see more. I couldn't anticipate what the story was leading up to and the ending was ... well, heartwarming. It's tales like this that add credence to the idea of *Superman* as a cosmic protector. Howard Bender's attractive penciling looked even better with Bob Oksner's inking. Definitely the pick of the issue.

Not that "Puzzle of the Purloined Fortress" was far behind. Mark Waid's whodunit (or should I say "whatdunit"?) had me stumped. Maybe I should get a home computer. Steve Mitchell combined well with Rick Hoberg to produce some really nice visuals.

All in all, I'd say ACTION #572 was a winner. Wouldn't you?

DALE COE
41 Whitecross Road
Warrington, Cheshire WA5 1LR
England

Sure we would, but we're prejudiced.—BR

*****

Dear Bob and Julie,

ACTION COMICS #572 was right down my alley. Wayne Boring strikes again! The return of Gollo! Some very fine writing by Beppe Sabatini! And fun for all!

I can't tell you how nice it was to see Wayne Boring pushing pencils on the Man of Steel. It's easy to see Wayne has not lost his touch. And Dave Hunt did a fine job meshing with the penciling.

Beppe Sabatini brought a fresh look and feel to *Superman*. I hope to see more from this newcomer in the future. He shows a lot of good direction in story and dialogue. And Howard Bender and Bob Oksner seem to have had a lot of fun drawing the furry space-jockeys.

STEPHEN SCOTT BEAU SMITH
711 6th Street West
Huntington, WV 25704

Howard Bender has a lot of fun drawing just about everything he does. You should see him during our annual trip to the fourth grade class in the Stewart School on Long Island. One kid asks for a sketch and the next thing you know, Howard is zipping off two dozen—one for everybody—and smiling the whole time!—BR

*****

Dear Bob,

The three stories in ACTION #572 composed a nice issue. My favorite was "The World of Superman Masqueraders," due to the return of Gollo and Wayne Boring. And thanks to Dave Hunt's inking, Wayne's art didn't look that radically different from Curt Swan's.

"SOS from Nowhere" and "Puzzle of the Purloined Fortress" were also good light fare. But I have a bone to pick about the last story. On page 5, *Superman* uses his super-vision to locate Luthor, Brainiac, and Terra-Man. He says they're either too far away or in prison. Now Terra-Man may be jailed and Brainiac's in deep space, but Luthor's been running around loose for sometime. Maybe the Man of Steel's mind is going rusty.

HURRICANE HEERAN
15908 Sherman Way #5
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Nahh, it's Stainless Steel! (Actually, the story takes place after the events in the issues of SUPERMAN published concurrently.)—BR

*****

Dear Editor (...and Bob ... and Laurie ... and ?...)

I must admit that I am generally not a big fan of the shorter story lengths. However, I must admit that brevity does have its virtues; in particular I see a big advantage with the three eight-pagers in #572.

First of all, the format gives us a diversity of story lines and ideas all in the same issue. And there is little room for padding; each story is a speedily developed plot. However, since these stories must stand on their own and are not episodes in a continuing tale, the editor gets some room in selecting his talent. All three writers in this issue are not regularly seen, but all turned in noteworthy efforts.

When I say that Beppe Sabatini's name hasn't appeared regularly in comics, I am of course referring to the time since he regularly (and justly) dominated the lettercols. And while there were some flaws to it, Beppe presented the most heartwarming story of the issue, emphasizing *Superman*'s high moral standards. Too often, *Superman*'s integrity is overshadowed by his incredible powers, but not here. Good job, Beppe. It's nice to see a letterhack move up.

Say, did Craig Boldman see the Monty Python skit about Bicycle Repairman? He did not by any means steal any ideas, but I can see how it might have inspired him. It was interesting and surprising return for Gollo, complete with a nice little moral at the end. The story certainly had an old-time feel to it, enhanced by the presence of Wayne Boring.

"Puzzle of the Purloined Fortress" was the weakest story in the issue. While the basic idea was a good one, the execution didn't quite make it. Things were going pretty well until we got to the chess-obsessed computer and that other dimension.

T.M. MAPLE
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ont. M9L 2R9

I don't know whether Craig ever saw that Monty Python bit, but he certainly could have been the inspiration for one of his own. Seems he and one of his former teachers have this ongoing exchange of a now-decaying birthday cake and they take annual turns presenting it to each other under quite elaborate circumstances. It's so crazy, it turned up as a feature on TV's "PM Magazine."

Referring back to your salutation, T.M., Laurie is busily helping Chuckie decorate a cake they baked to celebrate Aquaman*'s birthday. (No, it's not a fishcake!) (Yes, we do have some incredibly strange reasons for parties for Chuckie and his friends.) And Sammi is too young to learn how to type. So that leaves only yours truly to remind everybody to "Look, up in the sky...!"—Bob Rozakis*

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